

TOWN OF HOUNSFIELD TOWN BOARD MEETING
September 11, 2013

The regular meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Hounsfield was called to order by Supervisor Timothy Scee at 7 PM, at the Town Hall, 18774 Co. Rt. 66 and the Pledge of Allegiance was said. Supervisor Scee reminded everyone to keep the victims of the attacks 12 years ago in our thoughts.

Board members present were: Supervisor Scee, C'man Stephen Lee, C'man Todd Farrington, C'man Vincent Battista, and C'man Richard Young.

A motion was made by C'man Lee and 2nd by C'man Farrington to accept the minutes of the August 14, 2013 meeting. All voted aye and the motion was carried.

The Supervisor received correspondence that the DEC will hold a webinar on 9/16 at 11AM, for municipalities on the lake or its tributaries, about flood plains. A notice was received about a seminar in Syracuse given by NYCOM on 10/3 at 9AM about how to work with EFC for funding projects. Also a notice was received from PFC that September 9-15 a discount will be available to needy families wanting to sign up for Lifeline services.

The Clerk to the Supervisor read the Supervisor's Report for September: Total receipts \$161,156.17, Total disbursements \$149,104.07, Total in checking account \$206,624.58, Total investments \$701,384.49.

A motion was made by C'man Lee and 2nd by C'man Farrington to accept the Supervisor's Report. All voted aye and the motion was carried.

Abstract #9, vouchers #511-567 were presented: General Fund A \$9,469.30, General Fund B \$192.60, Lakeside Cemetery Fund \$1,350.00, Highway Fund A \$11,772.61, Highway Fund B \$15,491.90, Water District 2 \$4,587.83, Water District 5 \$1,200.52, Water District 1 \$14,012.59, Water District 4 \$13,378.85, Water District 3 \$874.80, Water District 5 Capital Fund \$144,842.69, Abstract Total \$217,173.69.

A motion was made by C'man Farrington and 2nd by C'man Battista to pay bills in Abstract #9. All voted aye and the motion was carried.

A motion was made by C'man Lee and 2nd by C'man Battista for Resolution #13-30 to approve budget transfers. All voted aye and the motion was carried.

Supervisor Scee introduced Patrick Jareo who is a candidate for County Legislature, District 9, and he encouraged residents to contact him with any questions or concerns.

Supervisor Scee reported that the 1812 Challenge Race took place and seemed to run smoothly thanks to many departments cooperating. He also noted that on the 14th the Daughters of the War of 1812 will be dedicating a monument at Lakeside Cemetery to honor soldiers of the War of 1812 buried there.

C'man Lee reported that at the last Water Committee meeting plans were discussed to send out surveys to residents in proposed Water District 6.

C'man Lee made a motion to spend approximately \$506 for postage to send these surveys out and C'man Young 2nd the motion. All voted aye and the motion was carried.

C'man Lee also reported that he met with Public Health on proposed Water Dist. 6.

C'man Young reported that he attended the Economic Development Committee meeting and items discussed. He also reported that he attended the Hay Memorial Library meeting and events that were held there.

C'man Battista reported that he attended the Fire Dept. meeting at Station 2 and once again there were not enough members present to hold a meeting. He reported that 3 out of the last 6 meetings that were held at Station 2, there were not enough members present to hold a meeting.

C'man Farrington reported that he attended the Recreation Commission Committee meeting and the Village Board meeting.

Corey Reid of Bernier, Carr was present and reported on Water District 5 construction issues and also reported that the NYSERDA grant funds of \$4500 for Water District 5 have been approved and the Clerk to the Supervisor reported that those funds have been received.

After a discussion on a \$5000 bill for Bernier, Carr that was removed from abstract #8, a motion was made by C'man Battista and 2nd by C'man Lee to pay this bill at this time. All voted aye and the motion was carried.

A work report was given by the Highway Superintendent.

A collections report for August was given by the Town Clerk.

A 2014 Budget work session was set for September 26th at 7pm at the Town Hall.

A motion was made by C'man Lee and 2nd by C'man Young to introduce Local Law #2 of 2013 to override a 2% tax cap. All voted aye and the motion was carried.

A motion was made by C'man Farrington and 2nd by C'man Lee to set a Public Hearing for October 9, 2013 at 7pm at the Town Hall to hear public comments on proposed Local Law #2 of 2013, a local law to override the tax levy limit for 2014 budget. All voted aye and the motion was carried.

Supervisor Scee called for public comment from the floor and Dave Altieri thanked the Town for the bed tax funds to make possible the concerts on the waterfront this summer in the village.

Norma Loftus was present to ask for more restoration of her yard from construction of water district 5 on NYS Rt. 12F. Mr. Kenney, Water Operator, assured Ms Loftus that the contractor will be back at some point to work on her yard.

Stephanie Elliot spoke about a problem with traffic and road rage that occurred during the 1812 challenge race on Co. Rt. 62 between the village and Nice N Easy store and she asked if something could be done differently in the future for that portion of the race.

Supervisor Scee agreed that this needs to be addressed next year. At this time Dr. Robert Johnson started to comment that he was one of the motorist and he was trying to get to the hospital on that road the day of the race. He walked towards Mrs. Elliot shaking his finger at her and became very agitated. Supervisor Scee asked Dr. Johnson to be seated several times, then asked Mr. Kenney to escort him out of the building. Dr. Johnson refused to leave and took his seat. Mr. Kenney informed him that the Sheriff's Dept. would be called. Dr. Johnson left about a minute later when his pager sounded.

Peter Daly was present to comment on an apparent ethics violation that has been brought against C'man Vince Battista for serving on the Fire Dept. Board of Directors while serving on the Town Board. Mr. Daly assured the Board and Ethics Committee that there is no personal gain by serving on the FD Board of Directors and that the complaint should have been publicized.

Mr. Daly also commented that actions should be taken against Supervisor Scee and others that attempted to derail the democratic process in the village of Sackets Harbor. Supervisor Scee responded that Mr. Daly is welcomed to file a complaint.

C'man Battista read a statement about the ethics complaint against him, saying that Mrs. Podvin filed the conflict of interest charges because she has always been against him since he beat her in a Town election four years ago and this is a political witch hunt. C'man Battista also added that he will encourage an investigation of Supervisor Scee and his committee who tried to find other candidates other than Mark Pacillio to run against himself in the Sackets Harbor election for mayor.

Supervisor Scee responded by saying that he is a village resident and he and an AdHoc committee were looking for candidates to run in the village election because he had information that former candidates would not run in a contested race.

Mrs. Mark Pacillio was present and disputed Supervisor Scee's response.

The open floor was closed at this time.

C'man Lee made a motion and C'man Farrington 2nd to go into executive session to receive results of the Board of Ethics decision on charges filed against C'man Battista, which was part of the process before this was to be publicized. All voted aye and the motion was carried. The Board left the meeting room at 7:50 pm.

The Town Board returned to the meeting room at 8:17pm and C'man Young made a statement as Chairman of the Board of Ethics. He reported that in the matter of the ethics charges against C'man Vince Battista, Mr. Battista has agreed to resign from the Fire Dept. Board of Directors for the remainder of his term as Town Board member , which means there is no more movement on the part of the Ethics Board and the case is over.

This meeting was adjourned at 8:19pm.

Submitted by,

Diane M. Nier
Town Clerk